



Attorney Docket No.: A-1719-AV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application: Kahle, et al)
U.S. Serial No.: 09/675,851) Examiner: To be Assigned
Filing Date: September 28, 2000) Group Art Unit: To be Assigned
Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH) Docket No.: A-1719-AV
 IMPROVED HANDLE ASSEMBLY)
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NDB
10-29-01

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to an Office Action on the merits, this amendment is being filed in connection with the above-identified non-provisional application.

In the Specification

On page 1, line 11, under "Cross Reference to Related Applications," please substitute the following.

a1
--PCT/US00/10296 filed January 19, 2000, both of which are incorporated
herein by reference.—